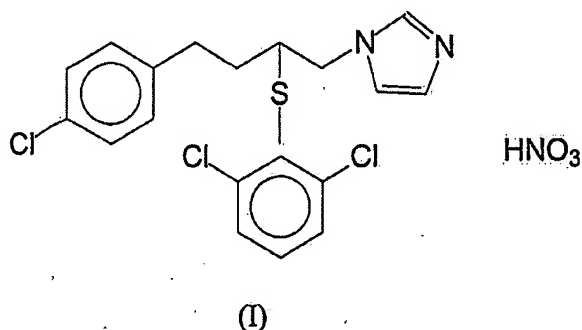


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

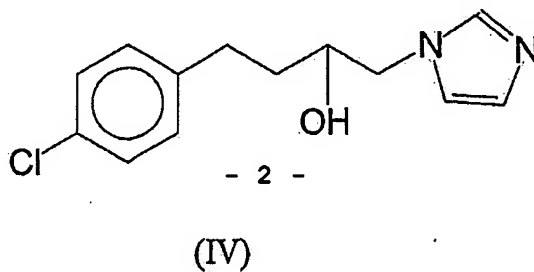
Claims 1 through 13 (canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a high purity butoconazole nitrate salt of the formula (I)

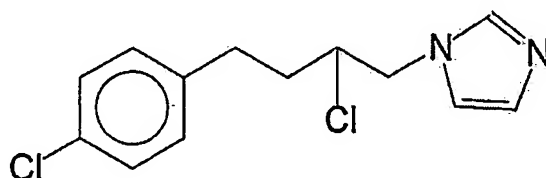


comprising the steps of:

a) reacting 1-chloro-4-chlorophenyl-2-butanol with imidazole in a mixture of a water immiscible solvent and an aqueous solution of alkali metal hydroxide or carbonate in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst to yield a compound of the Formula IV



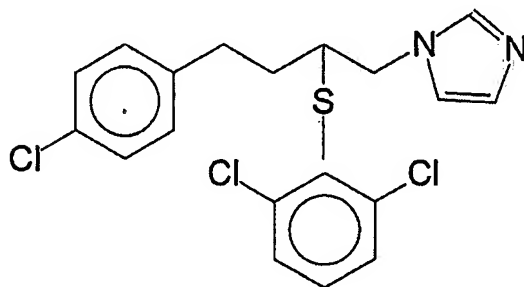
8 (b) reacting the compound formula of the (IV) obtained
9 in step a), with thionyl chloride in 1,2-dichloroethane as a
10 solvent in the presence of dimethylformamide, whereas 1-1.2 mol of
11 thionyl chloride reagent is used based on the amount of the
12 compound of the formula (IV) to yield a compound of the formula (V)



(V)

13 and

14 (c) reacting the compound of the formula (V) obtained in
15 step b), with 2,6-dichlorothiophenol to obtain the compound of the
16 Formula (VI)

(VI)³ -

17 and without isolation of the compound of the Formula (VI), which
18 remains in solution, adding nitric acid and isolating as a product
19 the butoconazole nitrate salt of the Formula (I) having a maximum
20 0.1 wt % of chemical impurities.

1 15. (Previously presented) A process according to claim
2 14, wherein according to step (a) the water immiscible solvent is
3 an aromatic hydrocarbon.

1 16. (Previously presented) A process according to claim
2 15, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon is toluene.

1 17. (Previously presented) A process according to claim
2 14, wherein according to step (a) the alkali metal hydroxide or
3 carbonate is respectively sodium hydroxide or sodium carbonate.

1 18. (Previously presented) A process according to claim
2 14, wherein according to step b), thionyl chloride is used in an
3 amount of 1.1 mol per mole of the compound of the Formula (IV).

1 19. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation
2 of a high purity butoconazole nitrate salt, wherein at least 95 %
3 of the particles of the salt are below 75 μm in diameter, and

4 whereas at least 99 % of the particles of the salt are below 250 um
5 in diameter, which comprises the steps of:

6 (a) dissolving the butoconazole nitrate salt starting
7 material in a mixture of methanol and methyl isobutyl ketone of
8 1-1.5 : 1 ratio (v/v) to form a solution;

9 (b) adding the solution formed according to step (a) to
10 methyl isobutyl ketone cooled to a temperature between 5° and -15°C
11 and

12 (c) isolating the desired product.

1 20. (Previously presented) A process according to claim
2 19, wherein according to step (b) the cooling temperature is
3 between -5°C and -10°C.

1 21. (Previously presented) A process according the claim
2 19, wherein according to step (a) the mixture of methyl alcohol and
3 methyl isobutyl ketone for dissolving the butoconazole nitrate salt
4 starting material is employed in a volume ratio of methanol/methyl
5 isobutyl ketone of 1.25 : 1.

22. (canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)